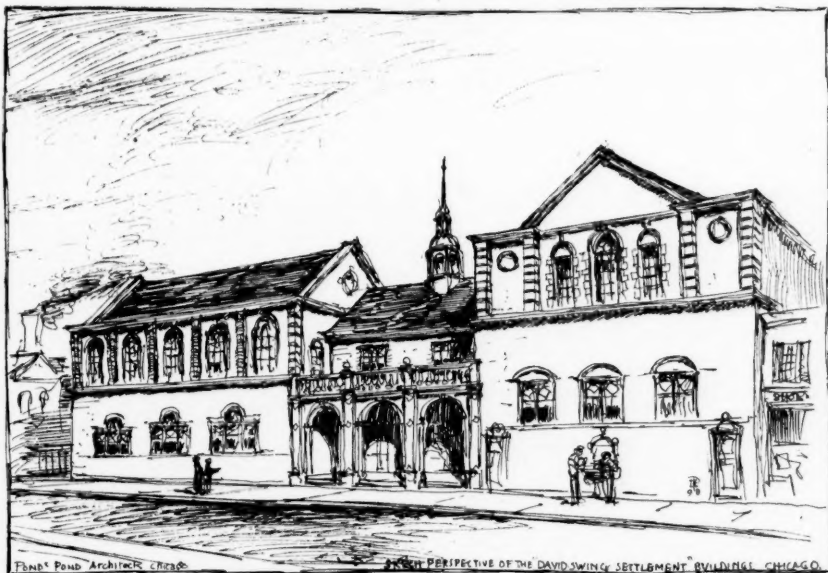


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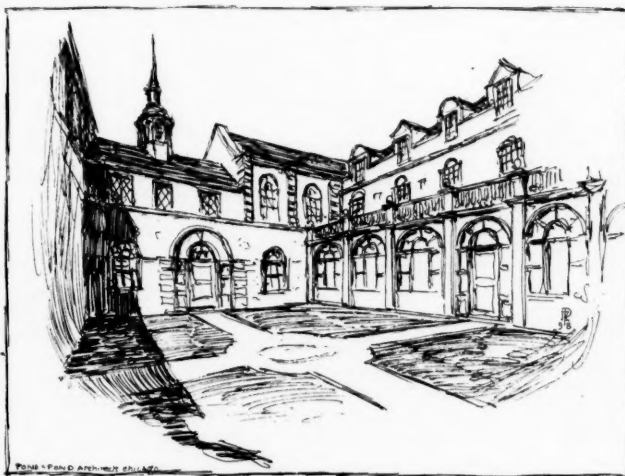
THE COMMONS

Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.

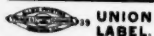


THE QUADRANGLE IDEA — SKETCHES FOR A DAVID SWING SETTLEMENT, CHICAGO.

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SCHEDULE OF OCCASIONS

LIST OF MEETINGS, CLASSES, CLUBS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS OF
THE WEEK AT CHICAGO COMMONS AND THE TABERNACLE
DURING THE PAST WINTER.

AT THE COMMONS,

140 NORTH UNION STREET.

DAILY

All Day—House open for neighbors and friends.
9:00-12:00 a. m.—Free Kindergarten (except Saturday and Sunday). Mrs. Bertha Hofer Hegner, head kindergartner; Miss Allee B. Cogswell, assistant.
2:00-5:00 p. m.—Kindergarten Training Classes.
7:00 p. m.—Family Vespers (except Saturday).

SUNDAY

3:30 p. m.—Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.

MONDAY

4:00 p. m.—Manual Training (Girls). Mr. N. H. Weeks.
7:30 p. m.—Penny Provident Bank.
8:00 p. m.—Girls' Clubs. Misses Cogswell, Taylor and Purnell.
Cooking Class (Girls). Miss Manning.
Girls' Progressive Club (Young Women). Classes in Art, Miss Cushman; Embroidery, Mrs. Gavit; Greek Mythology, Mrs. Follett; English History and Constitution, Miss Allen.
Shakespeare Class. Mr. Gavit.

TUESDAY

2:00 p. m.—Woman's Club.
4:00 p. m.—Cooking Class (Girls). Miss Cookinham.
Manual Training. Mr. Weeks.
7:30 p. m.—Boys' Club. Mr. Weeks, Misses Alexander and Holdridge.
French. Miss Sayer.
Rhetoric. Mr. Wyatt.
Stenography. Mr. Fisher.
Cooking Class (Girls). Miss Thayer.
8:00 p. m.—Choral Club. Miss Hofer and Mr. C. E. Weeks.
8:15 p. m.—"The Tuesday Meeting," for Economic Discussion.

Other Appointments, for Clubs, Study Classes, Social Gatherings, etc., are made from time to time and for special occasions.

AT THE TABERNACLE,

(Temporary Quarters, 209 Grand Avenue, North Side, just West of Carpenter Street.)

PASTORS:

GRAHAM TAYLOR, 140 North Union Street.

HENRY J. CONDIT, 291 West Ohio Street.

DAILY

9:00-12:00 a. m.—Free Kindergarten

SUNDAY

10:00 a. m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a. m.—Family Service.
7:00 p. m.—Children's Service.
8:00 p. m.—People's Hour.

MONDAY

7:30 p. m.—Boys' Club.
7:30 p. m.—Young Men's Club.
8:00 p. m.—(First and third Mondays), Men's Neighborhood League.

WEDNESDAY

4:00 p. m.—Kindergarten Clubs (children). Miss Purnell and Abbott.
Dressmaking Class (Girls). Miss Temple.
Piano. Miss Gavit.
7:00 p. m.—Piano. Miss Bemiss.
7:30 p. m.—Penny Provident Bank.
Girls' Clubs. Misses Cogswell, Gavit, Bosworth, Bemiss, Etheridge.
Boys' Club. Mr. Grant.
Cooking Class (Young Women). Miss Temple.

THURSDAY

4:00 p. m.—Cooking Class (for Women). Miss Temple.
Elocution. Miss Ellis.
Manual Training (Girls). Mr. Weeks.
7:30 p. m.—Girls' Club. Miss Chandler.
Good Will ("Blue Ticket") Club. Mr. Weeks.
Elocution. Miss Ellis.
Grammar. Mr. Carr.
Cooking (for Girls). Miss Manning.
Mothers' Club (Fortnightly).
Seventeenth Ward Municipal Club (Monthly).

FRIDAY

4:00 p. m.—Manual Training (Boys'). Mr. Weeks.
7:30 p. m.—Penny Provident Bank.
Cooking Class (Girls). Miss Manning.
Boys' Clubs. Messrs. Burt, Carr, Crocker, Young, C. E. Weeks, N. H. Weeks.
Dressmaking. Mrs. Strawbridge.

SATURDAY

10:00 a. m.—Manual Training (Boys). Mr. Weeks.
2:00 p. m.—Manual Training (Boys). Mr. Weeks.
3:00 p. m.—Piano Lessons. Miss Bemiss.
6:30 p. m.—Residents' Meeting (for residents only).

TUESDAY

7:30 p. m.—Girls' Club.

WEDNESDAY

2:00 p. m.—Mothers' Meeting.
8:00 p. m.—Midweek Fellowship Meeting.

THURSDAY

2:00 p. m.—Ladies' Missionary and Aid Society.

FRIDAY

7:00 p. m.—Junior Christian Endeavor Society.
Intermediate Christian Endeavor Society.
8:00 p. m.—Young People's Christian Endeavor Society.

THE COMMONS

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Whole Number 44.

CHICAGO.

MARCH 31, 1900.

TWO POEMS.

BY RICHARD BURTON.

(From "Lyrics of Brotherhood," Published by Small, Maynard & Co., Boston, 1900.)

CHANGELESS.

Love hath full many semblances: Now this
Fair face doth lure, now yonder smile remakes
A sorry world: now at a madcap kiss
We build unstable dreams: the vision takes
A myriad forms, and hath the charm thereof.—
But ever, in the background, soareth Love,
One ceaseless creature poised beyond, above!

THE POET TO THE CLOUD.

Soft white cloud in the sky,
Wise are you in your day;
One side turned toward God on high,
One toward the world alway.
Soft white cloud, I too
Would bear me like to you.
So might I secrets learn
From heaven, and tell to men:
And so might their spirits beat and burn
To make it their country then.
Soft white cloud, make mine
Such manner of life as thine.

AN ASPECT OF THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

BY PROF. GRAHAM TAYLOR.

More and more American workingmen engaged in the manufacturing industries are afraid to own their homes. They fear to risk their hard-earned savings not only, but their industrial liberty the more. Their fear is well founded in some disastrous economic tendencies of the times. One of these is the increasing precariousness of workingmen's tenure upon their jobs. This, of course, is due far more to the fluctuations of trade than to any reasons personal either to employe or employer. Both are sufferers from this chill and fever malady of the market, which none seem able to control and few profess even to understand. None the less it afflicts the wage-earning shop and factory hand with such a painful demoralization of his courage and confidence that he dares not discount the future, and feels obliged to live and hope only in and for the present. For he knows and hears of so many of his fellows, who have lost their little all by losing their jobs, after having invested the earn-

ings of flush times in a building lot or a building loan.

But there is even a worse fear. For the highly specialized, skilled mechanic no longer owns his tools. Machine tools are so expensive that only combined capital can manufacture, own and maintain them. The irresistible tendency of machine-holding and using capital is to combine its holdings and concentrate its plants. Economy in the use of material and the subdivision of labor and in power and rent demands this concentration. From the viewpoint of profits, competition is the death of trade, and monopoly is the instinct of increase and more and more of self-preservation. In the exercise of this instinct, capital feels warranted in closing even large and expensive plants at the less strategic points. Whole towns in some parts of the country have thus been deprived of the single or principal industry around which they have been built, and upon which practically all their inhabitants depend for livelihood. Deserted shops, silent machinery, and cold chimneys, often standing intact and well cared for, are our most significant modern ruins.

But more pathetically impressive should be the deserted houses and mortgaged homes. What have become of the inhabitants of these "manufacturing" villages, towns or city districts, where the soul has left the body? Those who were free to move followed their craft centers and trade machinery as fast and as far as they needed to. But woe to the family which owned their little home! They could neither leave it nor sell it. Their only way of keeping it was to stay in it, even though by staying they lost their own "keep." Their plight would be almost as bad if the shop continued to run on the basis of a decreasing wage-scale. For, if the family were free to pursue their own interests, they might move where wages were higher. But if they own their homes, they may find themselves, like the old serfs, bound to the soil.

Having thus denied themselves the "liberty

of movement" which labor once struggled for as an inalienable right, but against which it is now vainly struggling as a dire necessity, the workers' family is constrained to accept a lowering standard of life with the decreasing wages. Organized labor, clearly realizing that the liberty and the livelihood of the industrial classes are dependent upon their mobility, cautiously warns its members against fixing their status by owning their homes, and by the same token depriving themselves both of the power to protest against being reduced below a living wage and to seek whatever opportunity there may be elsewhere to better their condition. No one can fail to see what a hostage is given to the future when a family invests the slender surplus and sole dependence of its breadwinners in a little house and lot, the value of which depends upon the steadiness and wages of employment in the local shops. The householding working people have not the freedom to strike, which in too many situations is their last resort in the struggle for economic freedom and a living wage.

This pitiful plight, while by no means prevalent over the working world, is yet frequently and severely enough suffered to make homeownership all too often a menace instead of a guarantee to the future of the family. This fact is surely in evidence in the prostration of real estate interests in centers where industrial conditions are most unsettled and the industrial classes are thereby compelled to be most transient and restless.

MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSING HOME-LIFE.

The industrial classes are therefore dependent for their houses, either upon private landlords, the owners of tenement property, or in some instances upon the corporation which employs them. By no means always do the owners of rented houses seem to regard it to be to their financial interest to keep them in safe sanitary repair, or even to build and maintain them in a way which makes reasonable provision for the necessities of a decent, not to say comfortable family life. Indeed, the houses which are often provided for "farm hands" in the country and "factory hands" in town or city are not only incompatible with, but destructive of, any human ideal of the existence and social function of the family. Everywhere there are to be seen "the housed yet homeless classes." Such elements of the population are not only a menace to themselves, but to the state and to the society which permits or much more fosters the conditions which produces and perpetuates them. No successor of Robert Burns

will arise to sing of a new "Cotter's Saturday Night" in these country or city slums;

"From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs,
That makes her loved at home, revered abroad."

No new Patriot will be inspired, under the shadows of tenement piles, to hymn to heaven praise for his country's

"Rocks and rills, woods and templed hills."

And yet some of our youngest American cities are literally seeding down new slums in their failure to regulate the size of lots and the proportion of their area to be covered by buildings. At the centers of rapidly growing towns there is an entire lack of legal provision for light, air, open spaces, not to speak of small parks and playgrounds. Our new cities are thus carefully cultivating conditions disastrous to their health and homes, regardless of the fact that the older cities are in a life and death struggle to rid themselves of them. Chicago is awaking none too soon from its preposterous neglect of this rapidly growing menace to the necessity of providing better tenements not only, but of condemning to destruction tenement property as destructive of home life as fire traps and shaky walls are dangerous to property and person.

TRANSPORTATION NOT FOR PROFIT.

Hand and hand with this movement for the improved housing of the people in the more congested districts should go the intelligent and determined effort of our municipalities to control and cheapen their street railway transportation, so as to give more and more of their people the privilege of suburban residence and ownership. Indeed, cheap and rapid transportation is becoming so much more of an ethical than a commercial value in great cities, that it is fair to raise the question whether it should longer be rightly regarded as a business for profit, and whether it should not be classified among the "corporations not for profit," but maintained at cost, like the water and post-office departments, for the safety and necessity of the whole population.

The relation of the house to the home and of the home to the making of manhood is so vital as to give a religious emphasis to the economic aspect of the housing problem.

Plans are making for the vacation school and playground work in Chicago this summer. The report of last summer's achievement shows good progress made toward the day of the public assumption of this purely public function. The depleted finances of the Board of Education will doubtless prevent even the favorable feeling of the Board from taking effect this year.

***** * View=Points Afield. * *****

THE struggle for improved housing conditions in Chicago, started two or three years ago by a very few generous hearts who were most deeply touched by what existing tendencies threatened to fasten upon the city for years to come, met with its first public recognition this spring. The Improved Housing Association's first Tenement House Exhibit was held at the Art Institute in conjunction with the annual exhibit of the Chicago Architectural Club, and attracted wide attention. It consisted of models, photographs, and charts, demonstrating different phases of the housing problems in Chicago, New York, Boston and London. The exhibit was first displayed in New York, and will form a part of the American section of the Paris Exposition.

THE Conference, which was held in Fullerton Hall at the Art Institute, was successful, both in program and attendance, at all of its six sessions. Notable among the addresses given were those of Dr. E. R. L. Gould on "The Improved Housing Movement in Great Cities," which he is so effectively leading in New York; Mrs. Roland Lincoln of Boston, on "Improvement of Tenement Houses by Personal Influence;" Mrs. Frederick P. Bagley of Chicago, on "A Model Tenement for the Poorest Tenants;" and the stereopticon presentations of "Tenement House Conditions in Chicago," by Mrs. Henry Wade Rogers; "Chicago Lodging Houses," by Mr. John H. Bogue; "Architecture in the Tenements," by Mr. Dwight H. Perkins; and "The Tenement Problem and the Way Out," by Jacob A. Riis of New York.

NO FREER floor, or more of a social clearing house is maintained by any settlement than Mrs. Coonley-Ward has long made of her delightful home on the Lake Shore Drive. There for years extremes have met and mingled in a little Republic of Letters and a large social democratic spirit. Chicago Commons is deeply indebted to her and to the distinguished guests who have co-operated with her in providing the delightful evenings this spring, proceeds of which are devoted to our building fund. Six interpretive readings have been rendered by our old friend, Mr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, which have illumined and made more memorable the personalities and writings of Rudyard Kipling, Richard Realf, Edwin Mark-

ham, William Watson, Edward Rowland Sill, Sidney Lanier, and Robert Browning. Musical settings of songs by these poets were given artistically by other guests.

A new series of three illustrated lectures, on April 17th, April 24th, and May 1st, will be given by Mrs. Charles W. Rhodes, on "Paris and the Exposition," "Famous Castles and Chateaux of France," "Recollections of the Wagner Festival at Bayreuth." The stereopticon views of the Paris Exposition show its latest developments, and, together with those of other scenes, are colored from their originals. At the Wagner lecture musical illustrations will be given by members of the Chicago orchestra.

TO THE support of the Journeymen Tailors' Union, No. 5, in their strike to secure the provision of work-shops by their employers, the merchant tailors in the custom trade, came the Illinois Branch of the Consumers' League. If the tailors succeed it will deal the first of the deadly blows needed to kill "the sweating system" in Chicago. One of the worst features of that infamy is to compel the journeymen to do their work wherever they can. A married man is forced to do it in the family living room he can afford, usually all too scant to make real home-life possible, and when turned into a shop, rendering family life that much more impossible. A single man is thus obliged to sleep, eat, wash, live, and work in his little single bedroom. It may surprise some of our readers to learn that even the finest and most expensive tailoring is produced under these dangerously unsanitary conditions.

The custom tailors have established a union label, and seventeen of the principal merchant tailors in the down-town district alone have agreed to fulfill the conditions for which this label stands. Every garment to which it is attached is thus guaranteed to have been produced under proper sanitary and wage standards.

It is high time that the public, the great third party to every issue between employers and working people, finds some way of rendering and registering its decisive verdict in these disastrous disputes. The Consumers' League helps to poll the great jury of public opinion most effectively in outstanding industrial issues. The rousing meeting it recently held in Handel Hall ought to arouse the purchasing public to demand that goods be produced under conditions that will insure at least sanitary safety, a fair standard of life for the worker and his family, and the possibility of guaranteeing these conditions by the official inspection of the State, which the sweating system is intended to render impossible.

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For particulars as to rates, terms of advertising, etc., see "Publisher's Corner" on last page.

EDITORIAL.

TRUE tolerance abides this one test:
It is tolerant even of intolerance.

IN THIS and succeeding issues we shall print illustrations of settlement and other social-work buildings, which will be suggestive to those contemplating new homes for their work.

JUST about the whole substance of the trust question, so far as the mind of the average consumer is concerned, is stated in these lines from *Printers' Ink*:

Does the phrase, "Not made by a trust," influence customers? Would a purchaser pay two cents more for an article because it was "not made by a trust" if he could purchase the one made by the trust at two cents less?"

THE STANDARD OF LIVING.

ECONOMIC history clearly demonstrates the fact that efforts to raise wages directly are, in the long run, almost entirely futile. It is nearly beyond dispute that in all classes of labor, the Pay, whether under the name of salary or of that of wages, is inexorably fixed by the Standard of Living. It is common to say that the average man spends as much as he gets, and a little more; it would be more true to say that under present economic operations *the average man receives a little less than he spends*. In other words, it is the Iron Law that wages are fixed, not by any man's demand or by any man's reluctance to pay, but by the standard of living within the class, or subclass, of society to which the man in question belongs. This is true of the coolie in China, of the soldier in any army, of the general manager of a great corporation, of the president of the Standard Oil Company, or of the Queen of England. Whether the individual's "labor" is altogether useful, purely ornamental, or altogether superfluous, the "wages of the job" are fixed (making due allowance, if you will, for a few individual exceptions) by the accepted notion of the standard of living for that class of functionary.

For example, no effort on the part of organized waiters, or hod-carriers, or scavengers, could raise their wages to \$40.00 a day under existing conditions; not because their labor in

itself is not worthy of so much, but because public opinion, which in the end would ratify or defeat their efforts, has no mind to allow those classes of labor the degree of reward in comforts and luxuries for which that daily wage would stand. The average mind laughed at the strike of the Homestead "puddlers" for higher wages, when they were already getting, it was said, \$100 a week and more; but it was not esteemed ridiculous that General Manager Frick should have a salary of \$25,000 a year, or maybe more than that.

In a word, any number of illustrations will only add force to the contention that in any trade or profession, at any normal time, the average wage includes in purchasing power such things and privileges of every sort as will keep the worker at the normal degree of life and efficiency required for his work. The operation of the law is inexorable, and often results in lowering wages to such a point that the worker can keep alive, or at least efficient for only a comparatively short time—the plethora in the labor market enabling the places of quickly-exhausted workers to be filled continually with fresh recruits, who in their turn are as quickly worn out.

Assuming the truth of these contentions, it appears that it is wiser, more sound in theory, and more direct in result to raise the public conception of a right standard of living than to try to raise wages by themselves. An average discontent with existing conditions of life will more surely raise wages than will a more or less aimless demand for more money. It would appear, then, that one of the most useful services within the power of the social settlement to render is its tendency to create a demand for a better standard of living. By teaching its neighborhood to demand better housing, better public facilities, better conditions of industry, more educational privileges, good books, lectures, music, art, recreation, indoors and out, means of cleanliness, public and private, leisure for these things, etc., etc., and by educating its outside constituency to see the righteousness and reasonableness of these demands any settlement is on a shorter road to human freedom and happiness than in fomenting demands for the raising of "pay," in individual cases or trades, above the "going wage."

Discontent with a low level of existence is an effective of human progress, and that influence which most effectively stirs people to desire and to demand a higher standard of individual living and social service, works most effectively for the uplift of humanity.

SETTLEMENT ARCHITECTURE.

Mr. Dwight H. Perkins's Note on the New Buildings for Social Service.

In the Chicago Architectural Club's beautiful "Book of the Exhibition of 1903," Mr. Dwight H. Perkins has this to say about settlement architecture, prompted by the new buildings of Hull House, the University of Chicago Settlement, the Chicago Commons, and the Northwestern University Settlement:

"Architecture, more than any other art, may reflect the changing and growing requirements of a people. The effort for social service, known as the settlement movement, is an expression of a need which has sprung into our civilization within the last fifteen or twenty years.

"The settlement movement is generally understood without being closely defined, and its aims and purposes are best met when least emphasis is placed upon its institutional aspect. The housing of the various activities of these social centers presents to the architect a problem, in the solution of which precedent can play but a small part. The requirements are varied, and belong neither to individuals nor to a class, but include the social and educational well-being of all the people in the community.

"Its demands are pre-eminently democratic and genuine, as contrasted with the luxury and whims which may find expression in other kinds of building. In addition to such variety of requirements as follow when the plans must include dwelling places with complete equipment, gymnasia, class-rooms, and even theaters, the means are invariably limited. In this religious movement no money is put into the embellishment of an architectural monument to stand through the ages. The building is frankly and simply a means to a social end. Its very limitations, and the newness of the problems presented make the settlement buildings more closely expressive of the life of the present than, for instance, the church edifice, with its ecclesiastical architecture handed down from previous ages. There is no precedent to govern their architectural expression—these buildings must be designed as a direct response to definite needs. This, we believe, has ever been the starting point of good architecture."

We are indebted to Mr. Perkins for the frontispiece of the last issue, and for several other designs to be published in succeeding issues.

Notes of the Social Settlements

A women's settlement is proposed in connection with Cambridge House, Camberwell, S.-E., London.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale contributes a cordial letter of commendation to the annual report of Hale House, Boston, named in his honor.

We are glad to note that the work at Henry Booth House, the settlement of the Chicago Society of Ethical Culture, goes on well. Miss Tenney is in general charge.

A leaflet from Casa de Castelar, Los Angeles, Cal., shows its work going on well. A movement is on foot to instal a resident head worker, and a new building is being talked of.

The illness of Dr. W. B. Duttera, the new head of the Cincinnati University Settlement, reported in these columns last month, has delayed its work, but in a personal letter to the editor he reports it well under way now.

The fifth number of *The Neighbor*, published by the Northwestern University Settlement, is dated March, 1900. It continues interesting and timely, and should win its way among the local and outside friends of that settlement.

Maxwell House *Bulletin* reports the good progress of that Brooklyn settlement from month to month. The settlement is conducted under the auspices of the Brooklyn Guild Association at 245 Concord street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The third annual report of the Alumnae Settlement in New York is illustrated with views of the house, at 446 East Seventy-second street, and of some of the neighborhood groups. The kindergarten is an annex of the neighboring public school.

"Across the Way" is the title of an interesting illustrated booklet describing the work under the auspices of Central Church, Topeka, Kas., of which Rev. C. M. Sheldon is pastor, in "Tennessee Town," so called, the colored district of Topeka.

A timely paper on "The Institutional Church," by Rev. Harry F. Ward, head of Northwestern University Settlement, and associate pastor of the new "Open Church," in Wabash avenue, Chicago, as reported in the last issue of *THE COMMONS*, appears in the February issue of the *Christian City* (New York). It was read at the Methodist Church Congress in St. Louis, in November.

The *Trinity Chronicle*, published by the Young People's Bible Class of Trinity (P. E.) Church, Chicago, reports two "settlements" in its list of parish activities—the Rouse Settlement, 3213 Wallace street, and the Cottage Grove Settlement, 2734 Cottage Grove avenue. The *Chronicle* publishes (January 6) a spicy article reviewing the history and motive of settlements, and giving a short bibliography of reading on the subject. It is by Mrs. Caroline W. Montgomery, formerly president of the College Settlements Association.

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Published monthly from CHICAGO COMMONS, a Social
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The matron of a well known Masonic Home mentions one inmate, seventy years of age, who has been in the infirmary for three years, a great sufferer from indigestion, and has been taking Ripans Tablets about a year and a half and finds them so beneficial that he is never without them. He is willing that his name should be used in a testimonial, as it might be of use in persuading some other person to try them. A second old gentleman, in the same institution, eighty-four years of age, has had liver trouble for many years and finds that R·I·P·A·N·S help him very much. They also have two nurses there, one thirty years of age, the other forty-two; both suffer from indigestion, causing headache, depression of spirits and nervousness. They take the Tablets and find them so useful that they always have a package in their pockets. The matron also states that she is forty-five years of age and at times suffers with indigestion, causing pain and paroxysms of belching, and finds that the Tablets are very good indeed and is perfectly willing to have her name used in a testimonial.

WANTED—A case of bad health that R·I·P·A·N·S will not benefit. They banish pain and prolong life. One gives relief. Note the word R·I·P·A·N·S on the package and accept no substitute. R·I·P·A·N·S, 10 for 5 cents, or twelve packets for 45 cents, may be had at any drug store. Ten samples and one thousand testimonials will be mailed to any address for 5 cents, forwarded to the Ripans Chemical Co., No. 10 Spruce St., New York.

